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Letter dated 27 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached the report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of France in December 2013 (see annex). This document was prepared under my supervision, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gérard **Araud**

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Annex to the letter dated 27 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of France (December 2013)

Under the presidency of Ambassador Gérard Araud, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, the Security Council held 19 public meetings, 1 private meeting and 14 consultations in December 2013.

The Council adopted six resolutions and four presidential statements and issued 12 statements to the press.

Briefing by the Department of Political Affairs

On 4 December the Council held consultations to hear an informal briefing in the "horizon scanning" format by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco. The purpose was to brief the Council on the work of the Department of Political Affairs in the areas of preventive diplomacy and peaceful settlement of conflicts, as well as the Department's efforts to strengthen various United Nations mechanisms for good offices and mediation.

The Assistant Secretary-General illustrated his remarks with a number of examples drawn from recent experience in Yemen, Mali, West Africa, the Great Lakes region, Tajikistan, Guinea, Iraq, Maldives and Madagascar. He also referred to his forthcoming visit to Bangladesh, where important elections were about to be held.

The Assistant Secretary-General also pointed to a number of preventive diplomacy failures. In the Syrian Arab Republic, Sri Lanka and the Central African Republic, early warning and prevention systems had not worked and crisis had broken out. He expressed the view that the effectiveness of his Department's actions hinged on the timely mobilization of appropriate resources, the commitment of the parties, the existence of political space in which to operate and the sustained support of the international community.

The Fifth Committee was discussing various options for strengthening the work of such missions in order to bolster preventive diplomacy. Existing mechanisms should be strengthened and calibrated in order to meet the growing demands of Member States, in particular the Security Council, and to enhance United Nations efforts for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

All the Council members welcomed the information provided by the Department of Political Affairs. In an interactive discussion, they asked questions about the difficulties of preventive diplomacy, the Department's priorities and prospects, interaction with regional organizations and other actors and, especially, the criteria for determining when a situation should be monitored or preventive action should be taken.

Africa

Nelson Mandela

On 5 December, the Council issued a statement to the press paying tribute to the life and work of Nelson Mandela. The Council also observed a minute of silence during its discussions that day.

Central African Republic

On 5 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2127 (2013), concerning the Central African Republic. The representatives of Council members France, Morocco and Togo made statements at the time of adoption. The representatives of the African Union and the Central African Republic also made statements under rules 37 and 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

By the resolution, adopted under Chapter VII, the Council gave a one-year mandate to the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) and the French forces supporting it to take all necessary measures to protect civilians and restore public order; stabilize the country and restore State authority over the whole territory; create conditions conducive to the provision of humanitarian assistance to the population; and assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

A report of the Secretary-General with recommendations on the possible transformation of MISCA into a peacekeeping operation, including an assessment of progress towards meeting the appropriate conditions on the ground, is expected by 5 March 2014.

Mali

On 10 December, the Council held consultations on the situation in Mali. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, gave a briefing on the situation and outlined the prospects for accelerating the deployment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in the coming months. The members of the Council welcomed the progress made in the democratic transition in Mali, including the satisfactory conduct of the first round of legislative elections on 15 November and the organization of national consultations by the Malian authorities — those held in the northern part of the country (Assises du Nord) and the national forum on decentralization (Etats-généraux de la décentralisation). They expressed concern about the persistent threat of terrorism in northern Mali. They called for the convening of an inclusive national dialogue in accordance with the preliminary agreement signed in Ouagadougou on 18 June 2013, and also considered the mandate of the French forces supporting MINUSMA pursuant to Security Council resolution 2100 (2013).

On 14 December, the Council issued a statement to the press on Mali, in which the members of the Council condemned in the strongest terms the attack carried out that same day on the Banque malienne de solidarité, located in Kidalin, northern Mali, and called on the Government of Mali to swiftly investigate the attack and bring the perpetrators to justice. They reiterated their full support for MINUSMA, reaffirmed their commitment to combating terrorism and reiterated their support for

the efforts of the Malian authorities and MINUSMA to stabilize Mali, re-establish State administration throughout the country and launch an inclusive national dialogue.

United Nations Office for West Africa

On 17 December, the Council heard a briefing on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) in the second half of 2013, presented by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWA, Said Djinnit. The members of the Council then met in closed consultations. They welcomed the action taken by the Special Representative and UNOWA pursuant to their good offices and regional coordination mandate. They expressed support for the Secretary-General's recommendation, in his twelfth report on the activities of UNOWA (S/2013/732), that the mandate of UNOWA should be extended for three years, from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2016.

On 19 December, the President of the Security Council received a letter from the Secretary-General (S/2013/753) recommending that the mandate of UNOWA be extended for three years, from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2016. On 23 December the President of the Council sent a letter to the Secretary-General concurring with that recommendation and extending the mandate of UNOWA until 31 December 2016 (S/2013/759).

Combating drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in West Africa and the Sahel

On 18 December, the Council held a debate on combating drug trafficking in the Sahel and West Africa. The Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa made statements on the growth of drug trafficking and consumption in West Africa and the United Nations response to that phenomenon.

At that meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement on combating drug trafficking in the Sahel and West Africa (S/PRST/2013/22).

The participants and Council members hailed the initiatives taken by the States of the region and encouraged them to take specific measures, with the support of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, including the European Union, subregional organizations, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization, to effectively combat drug trafficking. In the presidential statement, those specific measures are divided into four categories: (a) maritime surveillance, border security and steps to combat the use of air transportation for drug trafficking; (b) mutual legal assistance and efforts to ensure that traffickers do not go unpunished; (c) monitoring of illicit financial flows and anti-money-laundering initiatives; and (d) strengthening of United Nations system coordination and international cooperation. In the statement the Council also acknowledged the need for it to be kept better informed of the status of the drug-trafficking threat, particularly when it considers the mandates of peacekeeping operations and political missions, through regular briefings by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Department of Political Affairs on the work of the Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking.

Peace and security in Africa

On 12 December, the Council heard a briefing on the Sahel. The Secretary-General, the President of the World Bank, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel, the Permanent Observer for the African Union to the United Nations and the Special Representative of the European Union for the Sahel made statements concerning the outcome of their institutions' joint visit to the countries of the Sahel early in November 2013. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel provided an update on the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. Subsequently, statements were made by the Council members. They called for strengthened cooperation among the States of the region and support from the international community to assist those States in dealing with the challenges facing the Sahel, including the terrorist threat, transnational crime, poverty and corruption. They encouraged the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations action in all areas, including governance, security and resilience.

At that same meeting the Council adopted a presidential statement on the Sahel (S/PRST/2013/20), in which its members welcomed the steps taken by the States of the region to strengthen cooperation with each other, in particular through the Second Regional Ministerial Conference on Border Security, held in Rabat on 13 and 14 November 2013, and the ministerial meeting on the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, held in Bamako on 5 November 2013.

Guinea-Bissau

On 9 December, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/19) concerning Guinea-Bissau, in which it urged the authorities in charge of the transitional period to hold the elections, which had already been postponed twice and were currently scheduled for 16 March 2014. The Council recalled its resolution 2048 (2012) and reiterated its readiness to consider targeted sanctions against individuals who undermined efforts to restore the constitutional order.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 11 December, the Council held consultations on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Martin Kobler; the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Great Lakes Region, Mary Robinson; and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, who had just returned from a visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to witness the initial deployment of the first unmanned aerial vehicles by MONUSCO. In their presentations, the three officials referred to the end of the rebellion of the 23 March Movement (M23) and the restoration of State authority in the eastern part of the country, as well as the conclusion of the Kampala talks between the Kinshasa Government and M23. While their assessment of the situation was positive, the three officials stressed that progress must continue in order to make these gains irreversible, as many challenges remained. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General also informed the Council members that MONUSCO had begun

operations against the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), pursuant to the mandate contained in resolution 2098 (2013), while underlining the difficulties encountered in those operations. The Council members reiterated their satisfaction with and encouragement of the efforts of MONUSCO and the Special Representative, as well as those of the Special Envoy, to achieve lasting peace in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Sudan and South Sudan

On 5 December, the Council held consultations on the relations between the Sudan and South Sudan and on the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). In his presentation, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations noted the improvement in relations between the two countries, while regretting that no tangible progress had been made in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Agreements of 27 September 2012, except on oil transportation. He also referred to the continued hostilities between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-North in the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States in the Sudan, which were still preventing the launch of the proposed vaccination campaign. The Assistant Secretary-General requested the Council to welcome the planned meeting of the parties in Addis Ababa to discuss the issue of cessation of hostilities, which would create conditions for political settlement and improvement of the humanitarian situation in the rebel-held territories of the two areas. He stressed that the situation in Abyei had been further aggravated by the Ngok Dinka unilateral referendum in October 2013, that the oil police remained in Diffra, and that there was no progress in the establishment of the temporary institutions in the area.

On 11 December, the Council heard a briefing by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, who introduced her Office's eighteenth semi-annual report submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1593 (2005) referring the situation in Darfur since 1 July 2002 to the International Criminal Court. The Prosecutor announced that the first trial, *Prosecutor v. Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain*, was scheduled to start on 5 May 2014. Subsequently, the Permanent Representative of the Sudan, Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali Osman, made a statement.

On 17, 20 and 23 December, the Council held emergency consultations on the situation in South Sudan. The Council members heard presentations by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, on 17 December, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on 20 and 23 December, describing the rapid and alarming deterioration of the security situation following what President Salva Kiir had termed an attempted coup d'état on 15 December. That political strife had led to clashes over much of the territory, first in Juba and then in the States of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile; the ethnic dimension of the violence was troubling. The fighting had gradually spread to a large part of the country, resulting in several thousand deaths and hundreds of thousands of displaced persons, tens of thousands of whom had taken refuge in camps of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to escape the hostilities. Clashes had occurred at an UNMISS camp in Akobo, Jonglei State, on 19 December, resulting in the death of two Indian peacekeepers and the wounding of a third, and many civilian casualties. The Council issued two statements to the press, one on 17 December and one on 20 December.

This exceptional situation prompted the Secretary-General to request the Security Council, by a letter dated 23 December (S/2013/758), to authorize the temporary reinforcement of the Mission's military component (with 5,500 additional personnel), police component (423 personnel) and enabling equipment. The Council met on 23 December to consider that request and to hear from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations as well as from the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Ameerah Haq.

By resolution 2132 (2013), adopted on 24 December, the Council temporarily increased the overall force level of UNMISS from 7,000 to 12,500 troops and from 800 to 1,323 police personnel, and authorized the Secretary-General to effect inter-mission transfers in order to swiftly redeploy the personnel and equipment needed to address the deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in South Sudan, and to enable UNMISS to implement its mandate of protecting civilians and also to protect its own personnel.

The Council met again to consider the situation in South Sudan in consultations on 30 December. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of UNMISS, Hilde Johnson, and the Force Commander for UNMISS, Major General Delali Johnson Sakyi, speaking via video link, gave the Council an account of the current situation on the ground. In addition, the Secretariat reported on the progress made in mobilizing additional contingents in the context of inter-mission cooperation. In accordance with resolution 2132 (2013), which provides for ad hoc authorization by the Council of complementary new force generation over and above the levels achieved through inter-mission cooperation, the President of the Council addressed a letter to the Secretary-General on 30 December 2013 authorizing UNMISS to deploy two attack helicopters, one level II medical unit and 500 additional troops (S/2013/784). That same day, the Council issued a statement to the press.

Also on 30 December, the Council issued a statement to the press condemning the most recent attacks on Blue Helmets in Darfur.

Somalia

On 10 December, the Council heard a briefing on the situation in Somalia, which was followed by consultations. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), Nicholas Kay, made a statement via video link from Mogadishu, introducing the quarterly report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the mandate of UNSOM, pursuant to resolution 2102 (2013) (S/2013/709). He expressed appreciation for the strengthening of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) pursuant to resolution 2124 (2013) and for the work carried out by the African Union. He also expressed optimism about the efforts of the Government of Somalia to advance the process towards federalism, highlighting the establishment of the Juba Interim Administration. Nonetheless, he reminded the members of the Council that the humanitarian and human rights situation remained fragile, notwithstanding the good intentions of the Government.

The Council members reiterated their support for UNSOM and the actions of AMISOM, particularly following the adoption of resolution 2124 (2013), by which it had raised the AMISOM troop ceiling. The deployment of an approximately 400-strong guard unit, proposed by the Secretariat in the context of the joint African

Union-United Nations review conducted in October 2013, was referred to during the discussion.

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 16 December, the Council held its monthly meeting on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question; it heard a briefing, which was followed by closed consultations. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, reported to the Council members on the status of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, which were entering their fifth month and had thus passed the midpoint of the established nine-month time frame. More than 20 negotiation sessions had been held in the second half of 2013, during which time there had been a number of serious incidents on the ground: injuries and deaths resulting from clashes, including the case of a 14-year-old boy killed by Israeli security forces on 7 December for throwing stones, as well as provocations: announcements of new settlements in the wake of the first two prisoner releases and destruction of Palestinian property in Area C and East Jerusalem, which had caused the atmosphere to deteriorate. The situation in Gaza was still very troubling and had been worsened by the recent floods that had displaced some 10,000 people, despite the material assistance provided by, inter alia, Israel.

The Special Coordinator briefly mentioned the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, recalling that, although the issue of chemical weapons had received particular attention, the vast majority of the killings and destruction continued to be carried out with conventional weapons. All those with influence should help the parties to prepare for constructive engagement at the second Geneva conference.

The situation in the Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic)

On 2 December, the Council held consultations with the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Under-Secretary-General emphasized the importance of civilian protection, condemning, with specific examples, both the attacks carried out by the Government and those by opposition groups. She recalled the difficult operating environment for humanitarian workers (13 United Nations staff members killed, as well as 32 officials of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent), especially the 1,000 staff members in the Syrian Arab Republic (international and national staff, excluding the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East). She also underlined that, two months after the adoption of the presidential statement of 2 October 2013 (S/PRST/2013/15), fighting continued in densely populated areas with little regard for the lives of civilians, indiscriminate shelling was on the rise and civilian infrastructure was still targeted. The adoption of the presidential statement on 2 October and the commitments made by the Syrian Government in a letter addressed to the Security Council on 22 November (S/2013/686) had not translated into significant progress on humanitarian access on the ground. The Government had accepted the principle of the opening of Al-Ya'rubiyah crossing at the Syrian/Iraqi border and of permitting the entry of humanitarian cargo through official checkpoints and crossings with Lebanon and Jordan. However, access via

the Turkish border remained a red line for the Government. Lastly, the Under-Secretary-General reported in general terms on the outcome of the meeting of the High-level Group on Syria held on 26 November in Geneva (contact group on humanitarian access), at which it was agreed to work on seven priority areas and to exercise influence over the Syrian Government and armed opposition groups.

On 4 December, the Council met with the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic, Sigrid Kaag, to consider the implementation of resolution 2118 (2013). In her presentation, the Special Coordinator recalled the points made in the report transmitted by the Secretary-General on 27 November (S/2013/700), in particular the two main difficulties faced by the Joint Mission, namely, (a) the volatile security situation, which constituted a challenge both for the transportation of chemical material and for the work of United Nations personnel; and (b) the removal of the most dangerous material from the country for destruction outside its territory, which would require substantial contributions from Member States. All Council members commended the Special Coordinator for the progress made and paid tribute to the courage of the Joint Mission personnel, who were working in an extremely volatile security environment, as well as the excellent cooperation between the United Nations and OPCW since the start of the mission.

On 16 December, the Council held consultations with the Head of the United Nations Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, Åke Sellström. The Head of Mission informed the Council of the conclusions contained in his report submitted on 13 December, which was also presented to the General Assembly (A/68/663-S/2013/735). The Head of Mission confirmed that chemical weapons had been used in the ongoing conflict between the parties in the Syrian Arab Republic.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

On 16 December, the Council held its quarterly consultations on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), with a view to renewing the mandate of the Force. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations highlighted the elements presented in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/716): the security situation in the area of operation had further deteriorated with continued heavy clashes between the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition in the area of separation; the presence and increased use by armed members of the opposition of improvised explosive devices, particularly on the road between the two main UNDOF camps, Camp Faouar and Camp Ziouani, posed a serious threat to the Force's security and freedom of movement; the Force had been fired at on several occasions. Nevertheless, the ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic had generally been maintained, although there were several reports of firing across the ceasefire line including by the Israel Defense Forces in what the latter asserted was retaliation for fire from the Bravo side that had landed on the Alpha side. The tripartite mechanism had prevented an escalation of the violence.

The Council members unanimously reiterated their support for UNDOF, expressed their appreciation to the troop-contributing countries and, on 18 December, unanimously adopted resolution 2131 (2013), by which it renewed the

mandate of the Force for a period of six months, until 30 June 2014. A meeting with the troop-contributing countries was held on 10 December.

Libya

On 9 December, the Council heard a briefing and held consultations on Libya. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Tarek Mitri, expressed concern at the volatile security situation and the worsening political divisions in Libya. He said that, in that context, the Secretary-General's request for a guard unit to strengthen the security of UNSMIL had been misunderstood by certain Libyan groups. The Special Representative underlined the importance of inclusive national dialogue to initiate a reintegration and disarmament process and to build consensus on the future of Libya. The arbitrary detention of several thousand individuals linked to the conflict, without access to due process and outside the authority of the State, remained a cause for concern. In that regard, he underlined that UNSMIL had documented cases of torture and deaths in detention since the end of the conflict. However, he welcomed the improvement in conditions of detention in facilities placed under the control of the Libyan authorities and the promulgation of a new law on transitional justice. He believed that progress had been made towards the election of an assembly to draft the new constitution, as well as towards the launch of a national dialogue. The Special Representative conveyed to the Council the Libyan Prime Minister's request for support to disarm armed brigades, while stressing that any work undertaken in that regard should involve dialogue with the said brigades.

The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya and Permanent Representative of Rwanda, Eugène-Richard Gasana, said that the Panel of Experts remained concerned over the continued reports of violations of the arms embargo both from and to Libya. The Panel of Experts also had doubts regarding the capability of a significant number of Member States to implement and comply with the United Nations asset freeze measures.

On 16 December, the Council adopted a presidential statement on Libya (S/PRST/2013/21), in which it expressed its grave concern at the worsening security situation and political divisions, which threatened to undermine a transition to democracy that met the aspirations of the Libyan people. The Council reiterated its support to the people of Libya and welcomed the efforts of UNSMIL to facilitate a meaningful Libyan-led national dialogue. It expressed its concern at the presence of unsecured arms and ammunition in Libya and their proliferation. It also emphasized its concern about human rights violations in illegal detention centres in Libya.

Lebanon

On 16 December, the Council members, in consultations, heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the serious incident that occurred on 15 December in Naqoura, when an Israel Defense Forces soldier was shot dead on the Israeli side of the Blue Line by a Lebanese soldier. The Under-Secretary-General stated that an extraordinary tripartite meeting, attended by high-ranking officers of the Lebanese and Israeli armies, had been convened by the

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) on 16 December and had taken place in a constructive atmosphere.

A statement to the press was issued by the Council on 16 December, deploring the shooting of the Israel Defense Forces soldier, calling for restraint by all parties and calling on them to continue to cooperate with UNIFIL to ascertain the facts. The Council members noted that UNIFIL confirmed the preliminary findings of the Government of Lebanon, which indicated that the shooting was an individual action by a soldier, and underlined that it remained a serious contravention of the existing operational rules and procedures pursuant to resolution 1701 (2006).

The Council also issued a statement to the press condemning the terrorist attack in Beirut on 27 December.

Yemen

On 5 December, the Council issued a statement to the press condemning the attack on the Yemeni Defence Ministry.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 4 December, the Council issued a statement to the press condemning the attacks carried out the previous week against humanitarian personnel deployed in Afghanistan, in the provinces of Faryab and Uruzgan. In its statement, the Council recalled the importance of humanitarian and development work in Afghanistan as the transition came to an end.

On 17 December, the Council held a debate on Afghanistan. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Ján Kubiš, called for inclusive presidential and provincial elections, the results of which should be accepted by everyone in order to ensure national unity. The progress made by Afghanistan in the areas of human rights, development and consolidation of the rule of law needed to be maintained, and the international community needed to implement the commitments made in Chicago and Tokyo. The inclusion of Afghanistan in a regional cooperation framework would be the best guarantee of the country's stability. The Special Representative also warned against the development of an illicit economy based on unprecedented growth in drug production. The Permanent Representative of Afghanistan made a statement in which he drew attention to the courage of the members of the Afghan security forces, who were now in the security lead nationwide.

The members of the Council paid tribute to the results achieved by Afghanistan, particularly in its preparation for elections. Insecurity and threats to human rights gains, as well as the deterioration of the operating environment for humanitarian workers, continued to give cause for concern.

Several representatives recalled the role of regional cooperation frameworks, in particular the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Istanbul Process. Others recalled the commitments under the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework and called for the early signature of the bilateral security agreement,

which laid the foundation for the international community's engagement in support of the Afghan security forces after 2014. Lastly, several member States noted that the expansion of poppy cultivation was a major threat to public health and development as well as to the stability of the country and the region. The representatives of Canada, Germany, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Turkey and the European Union also made statements.

Thematic issues

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

On 5 December, the Council held a debate to consider the reports of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (S/2013/460 and S/2013/663; S/2013/463 and S/2013/678; and S/2013/679, respectively). The Council heard briefings by the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, Judge Theodor Meron, and the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Judge Vagn Joensen. It also heard briefings by the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Serge Brammertz, and the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, Hassan Bubacar Jallow. The briefings focused on the status of outstanding cases, the fulfilment by the Tribunals of their completion strategies, the transition to the International Residual Mechanism and the need for cooperation, including for the arrest of the remaining fugitives still wanted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Representatives of three States not members of the Council made statements: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia.

On 18 December, the Council adopted resolution 2130 (2013) by 14 votes in favour, with one abstention. By that resolution, it extended the term of office of permanent and ad litem judges at the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia who are members of the Trial Chambers and the Appeals Chamber (and whose names are listed in the resolution) until 31 December 2014 or until the completion of the cases before the Tribunal, if sooner. The Council also requested the Tribunal to take all possible measures to complete its work expeditiously with the aim of facilitating the closure of the Tribunal, taking into account resolution 1966 (2010), and expressed concern that, in order to complete the work of the Tribunal, the trials and appeals would go beyond 2014.

Non-proliferation: Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

On 12 December, the Council held an open briefing for the consideration of the quarterly report of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). The Permanent Representative of Australia, in his capacity as the Chair of that Committee, reported on the work of the Committee for the period from 6 September to 12 December 2013, pursuant to paragraph 18 (h) of resolution 1737 (2006).

In his report, the Permanent Representative of Australia welcomed the interim agreement between the "five plus one" group and the Islamic Republic of Iran reached on 24 November 2013, while clarifying that the sanctions imposed by resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1929 (2010) remained in effect. He said that, on 23 October 2013, the Committee had discussed the seizure of a consignment of carbon fibre destined for the Islamic Republic of Iran, and he also briefed the Council on another reported case which is being investigated by the Panel of Experts.

The Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) also reported that he had joined the President of the Financial Action Task Force in an open briefing on the respective roles of the Security Council and the Financial Action Task Force in combating the financing of terrorism and proliferation. The Chairs of the following Security Council subsidiary bodies also participated on that occasion: Committees established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) (the Counter-Terrorism Committee), resolution 1540 (2004), resolution 1718 (2006), resolution 1988 (2011), and resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) (Al-Qaida sanctions Committee).

The Council members welcomed the interim agreement of 24 November, and the progress made in the dialogue with the International Atomic Energy Agency, while noting that much remained to be done before reaching the goal of a comprehensive and final settlement.

Other subsidiary bodies

On 9 December, the Council received briefings from the outgoing Chairs of its subsidiary bodies, in the order of establishment of the committees, namely, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia and Chair of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, Masood Khan; the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Agshin Mehdiyev; the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire and Chair of the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals, Gert Rosenthal; and the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012) concerning Guinea-Bissau, Mohammed Loulichki.

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia

On 5 December, the Council held consultations to consider the final report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia (S/2013/683). The Permanent Representative of Pakistan and Chair of the Committee, Masood Khan, presented the conclusions of the report and the substance of the Committee's informal consultations on 19 November. He said that there had been no violations of the arms embargo during the period under consideration but that the shortcomings in the capacity of the Government of Liberia to prevent arms trafficking, including the lack of a legislative framework on the possession of weapons in Liberia; the insufficient marking of weapons; and the limited capacity of the Government of Liberia to secure its borders were matters of concern. The Chair of the Committee presented the Panel's concerns regarding the natural resources sector and the land issue, which were underlying causes of conflict in Liberia. Lastly, he informed the Council that

the Committee was willing to delist individuals who no longer posed a threat to peace and security in the region.

On 10 December, the Council adopted resolution 2128 (2013), by which it renewed the sanctions regime for a 12-month period.

Terrorism

On 17 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2129 (2013) on the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate. By the resolution the Council renewed the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and extended it from three to four years in order to improve its coherence with budgetary timelines and the timetable for review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Executive Directorate was also invited to take account of emerging issues in its work, including the evolving nexus between terrorism and information and communications technologies, in particular the Internet, adapt its working methods and cooperate with all other relevant United Nations counter-terrorism bodies.

On 29 and 30 December, the Council issued two statements to the press, condemning the terrorist attacks that occurred in Volgograd, in the Russian Federation.